

REMARKS AND CLAIM TO PRIORITY

This is a divisional application of Application No. 09/161,402 filed September 28, 1998 (the “‘402 Application”).

Claims 1-20, non-elected in the ‘402 Application, are presented for examination. Claim 1 is the only independent claim. Claims 1, 3-6, 11, 13, 15-17, 19 and 20 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. Claims 21-32 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

Applicants claim priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 based upon Japanese Patent Applications Nos. 9-263545, filed September 29, 1997, and 9-361089, filed December 26, 1997, and respectfully request acknowledgment of this claim and of receipt of the certified copies of the priority documents, which were filed December 3, 1998, in the ‘402 Application.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Those documents are the art made of record in the ‘402 Application. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98 and M.P.E.P. § 609, copies of those references are not submitted, except for U.S. Patent 6,064,431, which was cited in the ‘402 Application as a pending application; however, should the Examiner require additional copies of any of these documents, Applicants will provide same upon request.

Also, a copy is submitted of the following co-pending patent Application No. 09/161,294, pending in TC/AU 2612.

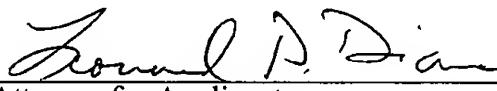
It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be initialed where indicated and returned indicating that such information has been considered.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the present divisional application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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